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**MAY 7, 2004  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT PLEADS GUILTY  
TO FALSIFYING MEDICAL CERTIFICATES**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Thomas M. DiBiagio, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that Reza Ostadali, age 41, of Forest Hill, Maryland, plead guilty today to using a false document, in connection with the indictment charging Ostadali with using false documentation on five separate occasions in a matter within the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

In a statement of facts provided to the court as part of the plea agreement, Ostaldi admitted that during all times relevant to the indictment, he was employed as a commercial airline pilot for Allegheny Airlines. The FAA requires that airline pilots submit a "Medical Certificate First Class" periodically to certify examinations by a physician. Ostadali submitted five separate certificates which stated that he had been examined by Dr. John B. Umhau on April 1, 2000; November 1, 2000; June 1, 2001; January 1, 2002; and August 1, 2002. In fact, Ostadali knew that Dr. Umhau had not examined him on those dates, and had last examined Ostadali in October 1996.

Ostadali faces a maximum sentence of five years of imprisonment, three years of supervised

release, and a \$250,000 fine. United States District Judge J. Frederick Motz has scheduled sentencing for June 28, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

The case is a result of an investigation by the Department of Transportation's Office of Inspector General. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Gallagher.